Distribution of expired drugs through hospitals

†1599. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that spurious and substandard drugs are being sold by drug suppliers in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to check the fraud of spurious and substandard drugs;

(d) whether Government is aware that expired drugs are being provided to the patients in some hospitals of Delhi;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the accountability of Government mechanism for prevention of the said cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Counterfeiting of medical products is a global issue and is reported in developed as well as developing countries. Government of India is aware of the problem of movement of spurious and sub-standard drugs in the market and has taken serious note of it. Though, being a clandestine activity it is difficult to assess the actual quantum of spurious/sub-standard drugs available in the market, however, a study of samples of drugs tested all over the country during the last 6 to 7 years revealed that about 0.3% to 0.4% of around 40,000 samples fall within the category of spurious drugs and 7 to 8% sub-standard drugs.

(c) and (f) Under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules framed thereunder, it is the responsibility of State Governments and Union Territory Administrations through their respective drugs control organizations to regulate manufacture and sale of drugs as well as to keep surveillance over possible movement of spurious/substandard drugs. However, the Government has initiated deterrent measures in this regard to amend the penal provisions prescribed under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 to make the punishment for the offenders involved in the manufacture or sale of spurious drugs more stringent.

(d) and (e) The Medical Stores Organisation of the Government ensures that they receive the medicines from the suppliers which do not exceed 1/6th shelf life. After due quality testing, those who pass in the testing, are supplied immediately to the Hospitals under the Central Government *viz.* Safdarjung Hospital, Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College & Hospital. Hence MSO neither supply any expired medicines to the Hospitals nor Hospitals accept them.

Screening of new borns

1600. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to make screening of new born babies mandatory;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi